

Serial No. 09/768,781

REMARKS

By way of the above amendments, claims 1-3, 5-7, 10-23 have been canceled as being redundant or being directed to non-elected subject matter; claims 4 and 8 have been amended; and claims 24-28 have been added. As such, claims 4, 8-9, and 24-29 are presently pending.

Support for the amendments to the claims and the newly added claims can be found at least in the old claims and in Figures 1-3. The amendments to the claims and the newly added claims add no new subject matter and their entry is respectfully requested.

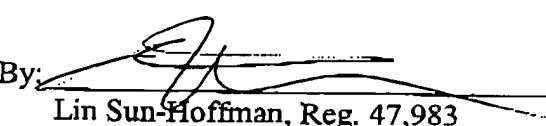
Applicants respectfully assert that the claims are in condition for examination on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,
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Marked-Up Copy of Amended Claims

4. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule consisting of a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a nucleotide sequence that encodes a polypeptide comprising the [an] amino acid sequence of [shown in] SEQ ID NO:2;

[(b)] a nucleotide sequence that encodes of an allelic variant of an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said nucleotide sequence hybridizes under stringent conditions to the opposite strand of a nucleic acid molecule shown in SEQ ID NOS:1 or 3;

(c) a nucleotide sequence that encodes an ortholog of an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said nucleotide sequence hybridizes under stringent conditions to the opposite strand of a nucleic acid molecule shown in SEQ ID NOS:1 or 3;

(d) a nucleotide sequence that encodes a fragment of an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said fragment comprises at least 10 contiguous amino acids; and]

(b) a nucleotide sequence consisting of SEQ ID NO:1;

(c) a nucleotide sequence consisting of SEQ ID NO:3; and

(d) [(e)] a nucleotide sequence that is [the complement of] completely complementary to a nucleotide sequence of (a)-[(d)](c).

8. (Amended) A nucleic acid vector comprising the [a] nucleic acid molecule of claim [5] 4.